

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for making a liner joint of a refractory, corrosion-resistant and/or abrasion-resistant lining, comprising the steps of:

providing a first substantially cylindrical structure of the liner material having an inside surface and an inside diameter;

providing a second substantially cylindrical structure of the liner material having a first end, having an inside diameter smaller than the inside diameter of the first structure, and having an outside diameter;

creating a cavity in the first structure having a diameter equal to or larger than the outside diameter of the second structure by removing a plug from the first structure;

shaping the first end of the second structure to be substantially identical to the shape of the created cavity; and

inserting the shaped first end of the second structure into the created cavity of the first structure.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A method for making a liner joint of a refractory, corrosion-resistant and/or abrasion-resistant lining, comprising the steps of:

providing a first substantially cylindrical structure of the liner material having an inside surface and an inside diameter;

providing second and third substantially cylindrical structures of the liner material, each structure having a first end, an inside diameter smaller than the inside diameter of the first structure and an outside diameter;

creating two cavities in the first structure by removing plugs from the first structure, each created cavity having a diameter equal to or larger than the outside diameter of the second structure;

shaping the first ends of the second and third structures to be substantially identical to the shapes of the created cavities; and

inserting each shaped first end into a created cavity.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A method for making a liner joint of a refractory, corrosion-resistant and/or abrasion-resistant lining, comprising the steps of:

providing a first substantially cylindrical structure of the liner material having an inside surface and an inside diameter;

providing second and third substantially cylindrical structures of the liner material, each structure having a first end, an inside diameter smaller than the inside diameter of the first structure and an outside diameter;

creating a first cavity in the first structure having a diameter equal to or larger than the outside diameter of the second structure by removing plugs from the first structure;

creating a second cavity in the first structure having a diameter equal to or larger than the outside diameter of the third structure by removing plugs from the first structure;

shaping the first end of the second structure to be substantially identical to the shape of the created first cavity;

shaping the first end of the third structure to be substantially identical to the shape of the created second cavity;

inserting the shaped first end of the second structure into the created first cavity; and

inserting the shaped first end of the third structure into the created second cavity.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the shaping steps are performed by removing plugs from the second structure

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the shaping step is performed by removing a plug from the second structure.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the shaping step is performed by removing plugs from the second structure.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)